GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2008
FARM PRODUCE
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the United Nations (UN) estimates, the value of farm produce in developing countries is much less than that of developed countries like United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken to promote agro industries to provide cheap food, reduce poverty and providing employment to farmers;

(c) whether the Government has issued an advisory to States for promoting best farm practices including intercropping to maximise production in the ensuing kharif season;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to bear the risk in case the farmers don`t get adequate profits due to such intercropping; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): As per information available in the World Bank`s World Development Report 2008 on Agriculture for Development, the agricultural productivity per worker in 2001-03 for low and middle income countries was $ 557 as compared to $ 24,438 for high income countries.

The Government of India has taken new initiatives for revitalization of agriculture sector, b y launching two new Schemes namely,National Food Security Mission (NFSM) to improve production and productivity of foodgrains and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana with an objective to incentivise the states so as to increase public investment in agriculture and allied sector,to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and executing agriculture and allied sector schemes and to maximize returns to farmers.

(c) to (e): In the National Conference on Agriculture for kharif campaign 2008 held in February 2008 states have been advised to take all necessary steps in time for maximizing kharif production including ensuring input supply, energizing the extension network and promoting best agronomic practices.Through the various schemes such as NFSM, Mini Mission-II of Technology Mission on Cotton and Mini Mission of Jute Technology Mission appropriate production technology indicating suitable intercropping are popularized through Field demonstration,Training of Farmers and Extension Workers.